

Message Text

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4853

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PORG, PINT, MOPS, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN SWA

THE FOLLOWING IS A SABC RADIO NEWS COMMENTARY OF AUGUST 18, 1978:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DR. KURT WALDHEIM, HAS CALLED FOR RESTRAINT IN SWA. A STATEMENT ISSUED IN NEW YORK ON WEDNESDAY SAID THAT HE WAS MOST CONCERNED BY RECENT REPORTS OF HEIGHTENED TENSION AND INCREASED ARMED ACTIVITY IN THE TERRITORY'S NORTHERN BORDER AREAS. A PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE WAS ESSENTIAL DURING THE PRESENT VITAL PHASE OF

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THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION, AND HE ACCORDINGLY APPEALED TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT AND TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTS WHICH WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO PEACE AND SECURITY AND TO THE OVERALL INTERESTS OF THE TERRITORY'S PEOPLE.

THE APPEAL IS APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY. THERE MUST BE

CALM IF THERE IS TO BE A DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION IN SWA ... BUT NO ONE SHOULD BE IN ANY DOUBT CONCERNING THE IDENTITY OF THE PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR BREAKING THE PEACE. NO CASE OF IDENTITY COULD HAVE BEEN MORE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED; BY ITS OWN REPEATED ADMISSIONS AND ITS OWN REPEATED ACTIONS. SWAPO HAS DISCLOSED ITSELF AS THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY. TIME AND AGAIN ITS LEADER AND OTHER OF ITS SPOKESMAN HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES BY WORD TO VIOLENCE AND HAVE GONE ON PRACTICING VIOLENCE.

LAST WEEK IT WAS THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL, MR. JUSTICE STEYN, WHO CALLED FOR PEACE. HOWEVER, HIS CALL WAS SUMMARILY REJECTED BY SWAPO. IT WAS DESCRIBED AS ARROGANT AND PRESUMPTUOUS, AND SWAPO MAINTAINS THAT IT IS NOT REQUIRED BY THE WESTERN PLAN TO LAY DOWN ARMS UNTIL SOUTH AFRICA'S TROOPS ARE CONFINED TO BASE, PRIOR TO BEING REDUCED IN NUMBER TO 1500. BUT THE PLAN IS QUITE CLEAR ON THE POINT; PARAGRAPH EIGHT STIPULATES THAT A COMPREHENSIVE CESSATION OF ALL HOSTILE ACTS SHALL BE OBSERVED BY ALL PARTIES IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WILL BE FREE FROM INTERFERENCE AND INTIMIDATION. IT GOES ON TO STATE THAT, THEREAFTER, THERE WILL BE A PHASED WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORY, WITHIN A PERIOD OF 12 WEEKS, OF ALL BUT 1500 SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS.

THE LANGUAGE LEAVES NO ROOM FOR MISINTERPRETATION.
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THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM THE OPERATIONAL AREA IS CONTINGENT UPON A CESSATION OF ALL ACTS OF HOSTILITY, AND SOUTH AFRICAN IS NOT REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW A SINGLE SOLDIER FOR AS LONG AS SWAPO PERSISTS WITH ITS AGGRESSION. MOREOVER, SOUTH AFRICA IS HONOR BOUND TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF SWA, AND TO SAFEGUARD THEM AGAINST THE CHAOS THAT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA AND AGAINST THE KIND OF THREAT WHICH RHODESIA TODAY FACES.

THAT IS THE CONTENT IN WHICH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MR. P.W. BOTHA, ADDRESSED A WARNING TO SWAPO ON WEDNESDAY.

THE ORGANIZATION, HE SAID, COULD EXPECT FURTHER RETALIATORY ACTION IF, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WESTERN PLAN, IT CONTINUED TO TERRORIZE INNOCENT PEOPLE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES WOULD NOT BE REDUCED, ON THE CONTARY, THEY COULD BE INCREASED.

HOWEVER, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CURBING SWAPO SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TO SOUTH AFRICA ALONE. THE PEACE PLAN WHICH SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTED IN GOOD FAITH IN APRIL WAS DRAFTED

BY THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS AND WAS ENDORSED BY THE
SECURITY COUNCIL: IT IS FOR THEM NOW TO TAKE THE MEASURES
THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT SWAPO DOES, IN FACT,
ACT WITH RESTRAINT. APPEALS TOWARDS THAT END, IT
HAS BEEN SHOWN, ARE NOT SUFFICIENT. END TEXT.
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